

Country experience: European Union member states (Chapter 7)

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7.44. The European Union Labour Force Survey (EU-LFS) programme provides an example of the possible benefits (at the time of writing, unexploited) of cooperation at the regional level of producing labour migration or mode 4 statistics for mutual benefit, given that all member countries of the European Union and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) have coordinated reasonably well their labour force surveys.^[1] An additional illustration is the European Working Conditions Survey,^[2] which provides an overview of working conditions in Europe using different indicators for working conditions of both employees and the self-employed. The combination of the employment status and the demographic indicators, both included in the survey, is potentially useful for compiling mode 4 statistics.

Box 7.3 Sample questions for inclusion in a labour force survey module on mode 4

The following questions could be included for *sending* countries:

- (a) Did you work in a country other than your country of residence in the past period (e.g. year, months)?
- (b) In the past year, were you employed in a country outside your country of residence?
- (b) If so, in which country is your employer?
- (c) Were you employed by an employment agency?

The following subsequent questions would capture further information on contractual service suppliers (i.e., those who are self-employed or who are resident and employed in the compiling country, i.e., those who replied "No" to question B):

- (a) In the context of your work, did you travel abroad in the past year?
- (b) How long did you stay abroad?
- (c) How many trips did your travel entail?
- (d) Did you travel abroad to fulfil a service contract in the destination country:
 - (i) With a third-part client?
 - a. Was it a firm?
 - b. Was it a household?
 - (ii) With an affiliated firm?

It may be of interest to obtain further data on services sellers or persons negotiating the establishment of a commercial presence:

- (a) Did you travel abroad to negotiate a contract?
- (b) Was it a service contract?
- (c) Did you travel abroad to negotiate the establishment of an affiliate/branch?

Some questions could be added to ascertain if an employee travelled abroad on his/her own or with colleagues:

- (a) If you are an employee, did you travel with some of your colleagues?
- (b) If so how many?

Compilers should pay attention to the issues of double counting, as well as the interpretation and extrapolation of information obtained for this question. A solution could be to design processing algorithms to avoid double-counting.

For a self-employed person or employer, the following questions could be asked:

- (a) Did you send some of your employees to fulfil a contract with a client abroad?
- (b) If so, how many?

For *receiving* countries, it may be useful to gather information for intracorporate transferees and self-employed migrants. The identification of the country of residence (of origin, or in last period) may be a first indication. If the individual comes from a foreign country, then the following questions would be useful:

- (a) Did you come to work in an enterprise affiliated with your previous employer?
- (b) Did you enter this country to develop a business?

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[1] For more detailed information on the results, common practices, methods and definitions of the European Labour Force Survey, see the dedicated section on Eurostat's website from <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/microdata/european-union-labour-force-survey>).

[2] See source: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/surveys/ewcs/index.htm>.